

Commission on Diversity Awareness

The Commission on Diversity Awareness is committed to fostering mutual understanding, tolerance, awareness, and respect among the citizens of Flagstaff.

Mission Statement:

The Commission on Diversity Awareness improves the communications and sensitivity among the peoples of our community. We are the example of proactive leadership and a community resource on issues of diversity, providing the information and advocacy that brings sensitivity through understanding.

Vision Statement:

The Commission is a leader resource in the community and to the City of Flagstaff Council on issues of diversity. The Commission emphasizes advocacy, harmony, respect and cooperation in all relationships and community involvement at all levels.

Events:

- Diversity Proclamations – proclamations read at City Council to celebrate people groups in Flagstaff
- Heritage Month Events – events held in recognition of national heritage months
- Drums, Dance & Song in Heritage Square – celebration of Race Equality Week, performers and ethnic vendors celebrate various ethnic groups that contribute to Flagstaff's diversity
- Monthly Meetings – held the first Friday of each month, 12:00 p.m. at City Hall with agendas and minutes posted on www.flagstaff.az.gov

Accomplishments:

- Sponsored the Flagstaff Juneteenth celebration hosted by the Coconino County African American Advisory Council
- Partner with Coconino County Native American Advisory Council in the planning and funding of the Native American Heritage Month Breakfast
- Hosted an annual Race Equality Week Festival in Heritage Square
- What Diversity Means to Me student art show and contest
- Diversity T-Shirt event for kids between ages of 8-18 at Cogdill Recreation Center
- What Diversity Means to Me student poem and short story submittals
- Calling all Colors 2-hour program promoting positive interactions between children of different races piloted in Killip and Knoles Elementary Schools in 2007

Last meeting was held in February 2014 where Commission members were discussing partnering or sponsorship opportunities with the Northern Arizona Pride Association in the upcoming Pride Month events, partnering on the Celtic community event, partnering with the Coconino County Native American Advisory Council on an Arab American heritage month and planning a mental health event in October.

In February 2014, Dexter Albert's term expired and he was no longer eligible to serve due to not living within City limits. During the CODA Special Meeting held on February 28, 2014 the other four commission members also announced they would be resigning or not requesting to be reappointed either. This led to the end of the Commission of Diversity Awareness. Dexter Albert reflected in a letter the struggles CODA has experienced with membership and quorums. Another letter received from Jennifer McAleer stated she relocated to California for employment and she stated in her experience there is a lack of interest and involvement from the City which impacted the success of the commission. She stated there was a lack of a strong leader, lack of input from or feedback to the City Council and sufficient resources to accomplish great things.